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	CLASSIFICATION SECRET CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY	
COUNTRY_S	oviet cone of Germany REPORT NO.	25X1A
TOPIC EL	actions to the People's Contress in the Soviet Zone of Garman	ACTION AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY
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EVALUATION_	Sea delow Place Obtained	
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El	ections to the People's Congress in the Soviet Zone of Garman	25X1C
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:5X1 1. 🔽	rocalved a teletype message	
to.	r the HALBERSTADT Police Office from Robert SIEFERT, Minis- r of the Interior of Saxony-Anhalt, directing that all	
:5X1X in	ralid ballots be counted as "yes" votes, in the afternoon 15 May 1949.	
	l the voting officers of the eight polling places of	V
L ZE	RERNICK were German Socialist Unity Party (SED) members. unting of the ballots started on 15 and 16 May 1949, short-	
l.y	after 8 p.m. and, returns were available at some polling	
£17.7A	ations at 8:50 p.m. They showed a small majority for the os." (On the two days about 50 percent of the vote) No",	
70	porcent invalid and 40 percent "Yes"). The SED burgo- ster and a member of the SED Information Service appeared	
at.	the polling stations on both days between 8:30 and 11 a.m.	
"n	the first election day they brought with them so-called ew directives for the counting of ballots, and on both	
QQ;	ys enforced their execution. Records of the returns were stroyed in those polling stations in which the ballots had	
£1.	ready been counted, and counting was resumed in accordance	
100.	th the new directives which provided that each invalid liet was to be regarded as a "yes" vote. Only those bal-	
Lo. th	ts on which the cross was marked exactly in the center of	•
60	unted as Tyes" votes. Incidents escurred in some polling	
	Corn	
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	This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the	25X1
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stations when the directives were announced, even some confirmed SED members refusing the carry out these directives. The burgomaster and the member of the SED Information Service thereupon started to count the votes themselves. They intimidated and threatened the presiding officers and forced them to sign the pelling records. Sixteen percent of the ZEPERNICK votes were thus converted into "Yes" votes. Sixtysix percent of the faked returns were "Yes" votes.

3. About 30 percent of the true "Yes" votes were counted in FALKENSEE. The presiding electroral officer, an SED member, had all improperly marked Ballets counted as "Yes" votes and all improperly marked "No" votes counted as invalid. When the other members of the election committee objected to this procedure, the presiding officer declared that he acted on orders of Minister of the Interior BECKLER.

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